“Four Precisions” of Poverty Alleviation by Enrollment in China’s Colleges and Universities
Taking Gansu Province as an Example*

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Abstract—Poverty-stricken alleviation through enrollment in colleges and universities in China is an important part of targeted poverty-stricken alleviation through education. Different special enrollment policies are formulated and implemented for different poverty-stricken groups in different poverty-stricken areas, so as to unblock the channels of vertical flow of students in these areas, improve the opportunities for students in these areas to receive higher education, provide talents and intellectual support for the development of poverty-stricken areas, and promote education equity and society justice to achieve the goal of poverty-stricken alleviation through education. Through the implementation of "four preciseness", i.e. object preciseness, target preciseness, content preciseness and way preciseness, the enrollment rate of rural examinees has steadily increased, the enrollment rate of examinees in poverty-stricken areas has rapidly increased, and the opportunities for examinees in rural and poverty-stricken areas to receive high-quality higher education resources have increased. However, it also shows the problems of the superposition of special plan care policy and the intensification of competition degree of college entrance examination for general group examinees. This paper puts forward some policy suggestions, such as optimizing the structure of the special plan, strengthening the cooperation between the east and the west, and improving the core competitiveness of the enrollment colleges.

Keywords—college enrollment; education for poverty alleviation; targeted poverty alleviation; educational equity

I. INTRODUCTION

China's targeted poverty alleviation has expanded the thinking of developing countries to solve poverty problems, and provided a new perspective for those countries in the world who want to solve their own poverty problems. Education plays a fundamental, leading and sustainable role in poverty alleviation, which can promote the realization of education equity and social justice. The implementation of education targeted poverty alleviation is to ensure that children in poor areas can receive good education by

accurately implementing the policy of education targeted poverty alleviation to poor counties, villages and students from poor families, so as to effectively stimulate the endogenous power of the population in poor areas and fundamentally block the intergenerational transmission of poverty. In combination with the local reality, the corresponding enrollment policies should be formulated for ordinary colleges and universities, to increase the policy support for rural, poverty-stricken, ethnic minority areas, old revolutionary areas and poor family candidates to "be able to go to university and go to a good university", unblock the channels of students' vertical flow, provide talents and intellectual support for the development of poverty-stricken and backward areas, and become an effective practical way of targeted poverty alleviation through education.

China has a large number of educated people, and there are great differences in economic and educational development between different regions. It is necessary to focus on the poverty-stricken people to implement targeted poverty alleviation on the most urgent and key issues of receiving all kinds of education. In terms of connotation, targeted poverty alleviation in education involves three basic considerations, first, the motive of poverty alleviation, emphasizing "helping the really poor and truly helping the poor"; second, the process of poverty alleviation, including three contents: accurate identification, accurate assistance and accurate management; third, the effect of poverty alleviation, emphasizing that "input" and "output" have the best efficiency. According to Professor Zhong Binglin, targeted poverty alleviation in education involves six aspects: poverty alleviation object, poverty alleviation project, security fund, funding system, management responsibility and effectiveness evaluation, first, to make clear that the target of poverty alleviation through education is education in the poor areas, especially to improve the quality of education in the contiguous poverty-stricken alleviation areas; second, to set up targeted poverty alleviation projects

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through education with purpose. 3 Generally speaking, targeted poverty alleviation in education can be understood as the application of targeted assistance measures in accordance with the current situation of education development in different poverty-stricken areas and the educational needs of different poor people, so as to improve the basic cultural quality and technical skills of the poor people, and to promote the poor people to master the ability to get rid of poverty and finally to achieve the goal of sustainable poverty alleviation. 4

Poverty alleviation through enrollment in colleges and universities refers to the formulation and implementation of preferential policies for enrollment in colleges and universities at the national and local levels, the special enrollment for students from rural, poverty-stricken, remote, ethnic minority areas and poor families should be implemented, so as to promote the chance of receiving higher education for students in this area, cutting off the vicious circle of poverty, providing the provision of human and intellectual support for regional economic and social development, realizing the upper floating of social rank, and finally to promote education equity and even social justice and achieve the goal of out of poverty by education. The popularization of higher education has promoted the increase of the total enrollment opportunities of China's higher education and provided a strong guarantee for the equity of enrollment opportunities of higher education. However, due to its own factors and historical reasons, the number of college entrance examination candidates in Gansu Province is relatively small and the enrollment rate is relatively low, and the higher education enrollment opportunities of candidates in poor areas in Gansu Province are relatively lower, the main reasons include: one, the poverty problem in the province is relatively prominent. Restricted by historical geography, natural environment, economic development level and many other factors, Gansu has a large area of poverty, a large number of poor people and a deep degree of poverty. There are 86 counties (cities, districts) in Gansu Province, 58 of which belong to the contiguous poverty-stricken counties (cities, districts) in Qinba mountain area, Liupan Mountain Area and Tibetan area, and 17 counties (cities, districts) belong to Chahua type poverty-stricken counties which are not in the national poverty alleviation area, poverty-stricken counties (cities, districts) accounted for 87%. The task of poverty alleviation remains arduous. Two, the proportion of rural household registration candidates is relatively large. In recent years, the number of college entrance examination applicants in Gansu Province has remained at about 270,000, among which the rural household registration candidates account for about 75% of the total number of candidates. To some extent, the gap between urban and rural basic education affects the equality of access to higher education, how to expand the channels of "being able to go to university, being able to go to a good university" for examinees in rural and poverty-stricken areas and promote education equity has become a difficult problem in the college entrance examination of Gansu Province. Three, higher education resources are relatively scarce. The distribution of higher education resources in China is unbalanced, the allocation of high-quality higher education resources is not reasonable to some extent, and there is a certain gap between the eastern and the central and western regions, and between urban and rural areas. There are 49 colleges and universities in Gansu Province, including 17 undergraduate colleges, 27 vocational colleges and 5 independent colleges. There is only one "double first-class" college of Lanzhou University, and the high-quality resources of higher education are relatively lacking. At the same time, compared with similar colleges and universities in developed provinces, there is a certain gap in the areas of buildings, teaching staff, teaching and scientific research instruments and equipment in some colleges and universities, resulting in relatively small enrollment scale.

II. THE PRACTICE OF "FOUR PRECISIONS" IN THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORK OF COLLEGE ENROLLMENT IN GANSU PROVINCE

Aiming at the problems of large area of poverty, large number of poor people, many rural examinees, relative lack of higher education resources and high pressure of entering school in Gansu Province, it has issued and implemented the "special support plan for enrollment of targeted poverty alleviation colleges and universities in Gansu Province" to achieve the "four preciseness" of college enrollment, i.e. precision object, precision target, precision content and precision way, so as to improve the accuracy of poverty alleviation through education.

A. Precision Object

In order to implement the targeted poverty alleviation work of college enrollment, the key is to find out the helping and the being helped (poverty alleviation objects). The special plan for college enrollment in Gansu Province is implemented at the national and provincial levels. For different groups of poor examinees, different levels and different types of colleges and universities implement the plan accurately.

First, it is necessary to continuously carry out the three national, local and college special plans. Since 2012, the special plan have been organized and implemented for targeted enrollment in poverty-stricken areas, also known as the national special plan, that is to say, the appropriate plans should be specially arranged in the enrollment plan of colleges and universities, to carry out targeted enrollment for the students from the contiguous poverty-stricken areas. It should be done to guide and encourage students to return to these areas for employment, entrepreneurship and services.

after graduation. The helping universities in Gansu Province are the key universities under the central government and the provincial government, and the objects of poverty alleviation are examinees registered in 58 poverty-stricken counties (cities and districts) in Gansu Province. In order to further unblock the channels for the vertical flow of students in rural and poverty-stricken areas,

Since 2014, the state has arranged a certain enrollment plan, in which key universities in all provinces (cities and districts) conduct special enrollment for rural household registration candidates in their own areas, which is called local special plan for short. Separate plans of seven provincial colleges and universities including Northwest Normal University and Lanzhou University of Technology in Gansu Province have been made for enrollment for rural household registration candidates in whole province. The special plan for colleges and universities has been implemented in 2014. Colleges and universities directly under the Ministry of Education and Pilot Universities of independent selection and enrollment reform have specially arranged a certain number of enrollment places, mainly selecting rural students who are hard-working and have good grades in remote, poverty-stricken and ethnic counties and below. In Gansu Province, the rural household registration candidates in 58 contiguous poverty-stricken counties (cities and districts) in 11 cities (prefectures) and three autonomous counties, Jiuquan Subei Mongolian Autonomous County, Jiuquan Aksai Kazak Autonomous County and Zhangye Sunan Yugu Autonomous County, are enrolled separately. Second, at the local level, in combination with the actual situation of poverty in Gansu Province, it should be done to carefully connect different poverty areas, and implement the special plan for the candidates from poor families, old revolutionary base areas and ethnic minority. In 2015, the special plan for candidates from poor families with filing cards, also known as the special plan for enrollment of targeted poverty alleviation, was implemented. There are five colleges and universities, including Tianshui Normal University and Hexi University, separately make their plan to enroll the candidates from poor families with filing cards in Gansu Province since 2013. The special plan for the old revolutionary base area is separately made by five colleges and universities affiliated to Gansu Province, including Longdong College and Lanzhou City College. It aims to recruit candidates from Qingyang City, Pingliang City and Huining county of Baiyin City. The special plan for training talents in short supply for ethnic minorities (hereinafter referred to as the national special plan) was implemented in 2016. It is a plan that separately made by 12 universities in Gansu Province, including Northwest Normal University and Northwest University of Nationalities, which is aimed at the enrollment of candidates in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture, Tianzhu Tibetan Autonomous County, Zhangjiachuan Hui Autonomous County, Sunan Yugar Autonomous County, Subei Mongolian Autonomous County and Aksai Kazakh autonomous county. In order to solve the problem of talent shortage in Gansu rural medical and health system and expand the choice of different levels of rural students to go to university, in 2017, Gansu Province began to implement the special plan for rural free medical personnel training at the level of Higher Vocational Education (junior college) and the special plan for poor family examinees, which are separately made by Gansu Provincial Medical Colleges and general vocational colleges to recruit students for rural examinees and poor family examinees.

B. Precision Target

The precise goal and task is the direction and power of poverty alleviation through education. The general objectives and tasks of the plan named Special Support Plan for Enrollment of Targeted Poverty Alleviation Colleges and Universities in Gansu Province are as follows: By 2020, 58 poverty-stricken counties (cities and districts) and 17 Chahua poverty-stricken counties (cities and districts) will have achieved significant improvement in their admission indicators, and the admission rate will be basically the same as the provincial average. The objectives and tasks decomposed into various special projects are more precise and clear. During the 12th Five Year Plan period, the national special plan requires to arrange a special plan for about 10,000 students in the national enrollment plan every year, based on the first batch of undergraduate enrollment plan. In the undergraduate program, the central department colleges and universities and the local colleges and universities in the first batch of undergraduate enrollment shall undertake the recruitment and training tasks. In the higher vocational program, the national exemplary (including the key schools) higher vocational schools undertake the recruitment and training tasks. Through the implementation of the special plan, it should be done to increase the opportunities for students in poverty-stricken areas to receive higher education and promote education equity; guide the healthy development of basic education in poverty-stricken areas and improve the level of education; encourage students to return to poverty-stricken areas for employment and services after graduation, so as to provide talent and intellectual support for the development of poverty-stricken areas. The special plan for colleges and universities is arranged by the colleges and universities directly under the Ministry of education and the Pilot Universities of independent selection and enrollment reform. In principle, it is not less than 2% of the annual undergraduate enrollment scale of relevant colleges and universities. The goal is to increase the proportion of candidates from remote, poor and ethnic areas in "first-class universities and first-class disciplines", and to establish a long-term mechanism to improve and gradually increase the proportion of rural students. Considering the overall scale of the three special plans at the national level is small, and the fact that there are many examinees in rural and poverty-stricken areas of Gansu Province, Gansu began to implement

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the special plans at the local level to recruit students. The goal is to improve the opportunities for the old revolutionary base areas, poverty-stricken areas and poor families to accept higher education. This kind of special plan is more targeted, direct and sustainable, which can better ensure the effectiveness of poverty alleviation and achieve the goal of poverty eradication.

C. Precision Content

The precise poverty alleviation content of college enrollment is mainly reflected in taking the enrollment plan as the center, strictly stipulating the number of plans, enrollment objects, intention setting and filling, enrollment batch arrangement, filing mode setting, etc., so as to ensure that the poverty alleviation policy of each type of special plan task for different groups is implemented. At the national level, since the launch of the national special plan in 2012, the national enrollment scale has increased from the initial 10,000 to 63,000 in 2017. The number of candidates from 58 poverty-stricken counties (cities and districts) in Gansu Province who rely on this special program to study in Universities of central departments and key universities affiliated to Gansu Province has increased from more than 15,000 in 2012 to more than 6,800 in 2019, with a total enrollment of more than 38,500. By 2019, more than 10,300 people will be enrolled in six years of local special plan, and more than 1,900 people will be enrolled in six years of university special plan. At the local level, from 2015 to 2019, the special plan for targeted poverty alleviation has admitted more than 3,800 candidates from poor families, and the special plan for old revolutionary base areas has admitted more than 17,000 candidates. More than 6,200 candidates have been admitted since the implementation of the National Program (Undergraduate Program) in 2016. Since 2017, more than 8,000 candidates have been enrolled in the special plan for rural free medical personnel training and the special plan for poor family candidates with filing cards.

D. Precision Way

On the one hand, the qualification examination should be strengthened, on the other hand, the "four separate" plans should be made for enrollment. First, make a separate plan. Colleges and universities at different levels, categories and regions shall be responsible for the preparation and publication of enrollment plans for each special project, among them, the state has issued special plans for targeted enrollment in poverty-stricken areas in six provincial colleges and universities including Northwest Normal University and Gansu Agricultural University, according to the number of candidates in 58 poor counties (cities and districts), the number of candidates can be divided into counties (cities and districts) according to their majors. The college entrance examination scores are used to be divided into counties (cities and districts) according to the candidates' wishes, so as to make the plan more refined. Second, to set separate batch. According to the nature of the special plan, students will be enrolled in different batches and sections to create more admission opportunities for candidates. Third, it is necessary to apply intention separately. The special plan page should be added to online volunteer filling system. The "1 + 1" sequential mode is adopted for intention, which sets "1 first intention and 1 second intention". One can choose 6 majors from each university. Fourth, it needs to be approved separately. According to the principle of "intention first, follow scores", the students will be admitted in file from high score to low one. The special plan does not recruit intentions, and if there is a shortage of students in the university, the scores can be appropriately reduced and put on file according to the relevant policies and candidates' wishes under the batch control scores.

III. THE IMPLEMENTATION EFFECT AND EXISTING PROBLEMS OF THE SPECIAL PLAN OF TARGETED POVERTY ALLEVIATION FOR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

The Research Center for targeted poverty alleviation and regional development of Gansu Province adopted the method of sampling survey, randomly selected 14 poverty-stricken villages in Gansu Province as sample villages, statistically described 1,749 poverty-stricken families' income and expenditure status, their children's education status, etc., and analyzed the income status of family labor education. The results show that: from the overall situation, education income increases with the improvement of education stage. The annual income of the labor force with education level of primary school and below is 9,121 yuan, while that of the labor force with education level of junior college and above is 24,064 yuan, 2.6 times of the former. From the perspective of the income of the labor force engaged in different industries at different levels of education, the education income also increases significantly with the improvement of the education stage. UNESCO research shows that different levels of educated people have different levels of improving labor productivity: undergraduate 300%, junior high school 108%, primary school 43%, the correlation coefficient between per capita years of education and per capita GDP is 0.562. According to the individualism poverty theory, the cause of poverty is attributed to the individual's ability defect or the intergenerational transmission of poverty culture. Based on this poverty theory, the orientation of education poverty alleviation policy is to compensate the poor students' ability defects and break the vicious circle of poverty with the help of the baptism of mainstream culture.

Since the implementation of various special plans for enrollment in 2012, candidates from rural, poverty-stricken, ethnic and poor families in Gansu Province have significantly increased their access to higher education and achieved remarkable results. This paper selects the college entrance examination admission rate of examinees at different levels (that is, the ratio of the number of students enrolled in the college entrance examination in this region to the number of students enrolled in the college entrance exam).
examination in this region) as an indicator to illustrate the implementation effect of the special plan, and at the same time, it analyzes the changes of higher education admission opportunities that examinees in relevant regions can enjoy.

First, the enrollment rate of rural examinees has steadily increased. When the special plan was not implemented in 2011, the enrollment rate of rural examinees in the college entrance examination (the ratio between the enrollment of rural household registration examinees and the enrollment of rural examinees) was 64.04%. After the implementation, it reached 73.85% in 2012, an increase of 9.81%. From 2012 to 2019, about 75% of rural candidates in Gansu Province are admitted by universities every year, totaling more than 1,335,600, with an average of 167,000 admitted every year; the college entrance examination admission rate of rural candidates has increased from 73.85% in 2012 to 82.76% in 2019, with an increase of 8.91%.

Second, the enrollment rate in poor areas has increased significantly. From 2012 to 2019, 58 contiguous poverty-stricken counties (cities and districts) in Gansu Province admitted more than 1,232,000 candidates. The 8-year average admission rate (the ratio between the number of candidates admitted and the number of applicants in 58 counties (cities and districts) reached 84.20%, higher than the provincial average admission rate (79.28%), and reached the maximum value of 90.39% in 2015, 11.53% higher than the total admission rate of Gansu Province in that year.

Third, the opportunities for candidates in rural and poverty-stricken areas to receive high-quality higher education resources are increasing. In 2011, the number of rural undergraduate enrollment accounted for 23.30% of the total number of applications, increased to 26.76% in 2012, and maintained at about 25% in the following seven years, reaching 28.27% in 2019; From 2012 to 2019, the average number of rural candidates admitted by "985" college is 2,318 per year, and the average number of rural candidates admitted by "211" college is 5,818 per year, which is higher than that before 2011; The first batch of rural candidates' undergraduate enrollment rate increased from 3.98% in 2011 to 5.87% in 2017, and showed a steady growth trend. In the past eight years, the average undergraduate admission rate of 58 poor counties (cities and districts) in Gansu Province has reached 39.39%, which is basically the same as the total undergraduate admission rate of the whole province, with an increase of 1.68% compared with 37.71% in 2011.

Fourth, the number of university students in ethnic areas is growing rapidly. For example, in Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, the admission rate of college entrance examination has been maintained at over 85% in recent five years, reaching 89.12% in 2019, and 5.49 percentage points higher than that of the whole province.

As an important aspect of education targeted poverty alleviation, college enrollment poverty alleviation has obvious effect in improving the self-development ability of poverty-stricken areas and families, and blocking the intergenerational transmission of poverty. But in the process of practice, there are undeniable problems that need to be solved.

First, the proportion of undergraduate programs is relatively low. Since 2012, the scale of college entrance examination candidates in Gansu Province has remained at about 270,000. However, the plan of the number of undergraduate candidates in Gansu Province is less than 55,000 every year, and the undergraduate enrollment rate is less than 40%. In 2017, Beijing, Jiangsu, Chongqing, Hebei and other provinces with high undergraduate enrollment rate have exceeded 50%. Some universities under the Ministry, "double first-class" universities, "985" universities and "211" universities in Gansu Province is relatively small, among which the first batch of undergraduate admission rate is less than 10%, the proportion of universities under the Ministry is about 6%, and the proportion of "985" and "211" universities is about 2% and 5% respectively, far from meeting the needs of candidates. The special poverty alleviation plan for college enrollment comes from the total scale of the whole province, with small increment. Although the undergraduate enrollment rate of rural, poverty-stricken, ethnic and poverty-stricken families has increased in recent years, it is still at a low level compared with the national level.

The second is the superposition of special plans and policies. At the national level, the special plan for targeted poverty alleviation of college enrollment includes national special project, local special project and college special project; At the local level of Gansu Province, there are about 10 special planned projects, including targeted poverty alleviation at the undergraduate level, special projects for old revolutionary base areas, special projects for the cultivation of talents in need of ethnic minorities, targeted poverty alleviation at the professional level, special projects for the cultivation of free medical talents in rural areas, and special projects for the cultivation of talents in need of ethnic minorities, and there are some problems caused by the superposition of caring policy.

First, the wide selection of candidates results in waste of some plans. Second, there is a lot of pressure on the special plans of colleges and universities in the province. There are relatively few colleges and universities in Gansu Province, and the contradiction of limited capacity of plan undertaking is quite prominent. The colleges and universities in Gansu Province are mostly responsible for the special plan of targeted poverty alleviation for college enrollment. The implementation of the special plan in some colleges and universities in Gansu Province has reduced the batch plan of general arts and Sciences, caused the fragmentation of the plan, and increased the burden of the plan arrangement of Colleges and universities.

IV. CONCLUSION

Education equity is the basis of social equity, which is embodied in the right of everyone to receive education. It includes the equity and equality of education in all aspects and in the whole process. In recent years, China has continuously strengthened its macro management of the development of higher education. Through the overall arrangement of the increment and stock adjustment of enrollment plans, it has implemented various special plans for enrollment, further narrowed the gap between regional
and urban-rural national education development, promoted regional coordination and fair enrollment opportunities, and finally promoted education equity. However, in order to achieve the goal of poverty alleviation via education, all regions should closely integrate with the reality, focus on the objective requirements of improving the sense of access and happiness of candidates in poverty areas, and implement the policy of benefiting the people by recruiting students in colleges and universities. First, optimize the structure of special plans. In view of the situation that there are many types of special plans and the limited capacity of provincial colleges and universities to undertake them, it is advisable to consider that the special plans at the local level allow the colleges and universities outside the province to arrange plans, invite the colleges and universities of other provinces to arrange targeted poverty alleviation projects, special projects for old revolutionary base areas, special projects for training talents in need of ethnic minorities, etc., at the same time, it can reduce the pressure of provincial colleges and universities' special plans and improve the enthusiasm of candidates. Second, to continuously increase the preferential policies for college entrance examination in rural areas, poverty-stricken areas and poor families, appropriately expand national special programs and special programs for colleges and universities, increase the proportion of universities under the Ministry, and create more opportunities for poor candidates to receive higher education. Third, to expand the targeted enrollment scale of Vocational Colleges in poor areas, arrange for the enrollment of majors with distinctive professional characteristics, abundant teachers and broad employment prospects, and explore an effective way for secondary vocational graduates from poor families to receive higher vocational education. Fourth, it is necessary to strengthen the cooperation in education between the East and the Midwest. Actively strive for the enrollment cooperation plan and the trans provincial student source control plan in the eastern, central and western regions, especially the enrollment plan of first-class universities and disciplines, effectively expand the channels for students in poor areas to enter higher education, and truly achieve the goal of "exporting one person and lifting one family out of poverty". Fifth, it is necessary to strengthen the analysis of the source structure of students and to make a scientific enrollment plan. Enrollment work is a systematic project, especially the dependence on the information interaction among education administrative departments, enrollment and examination institutions and colleges and universities. It is necessary to strengthen communication and cooperation, adopt big data analysis and other methods to systematically analyze all kinds of enrollment data, clarify the source structure of students, eliminate the problems such as unbalanced enrollment plan arrangement and inconsistent policy understanding, and reasonably arrange the plan and distribution scheme to make it as more scientific, operable, and smooth plan for implementation.

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